--- “Series of 1881” - TOBACCO - Division Open - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- 1/8th pound - lithographed in RED ink on *block watermarked* vertical mesh wove - 238 x 20 mm. ---

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In 1874 *foreign leaf* tobacco was taxed at 20¢ per pound. As a concession to the American farmers, recovering from the Civil War, in 1880 this excise duty was reduced at 14¢ per pound. In 1883 this was raised to 16¢ per pound. One would think these 1/8th pound ***blank-panel*** strips must have been intended for use after 1883, representing 2¢ excise duty per strip. However, as of July 1st 1883, all red warehousing strips had been declared *obsolete*. Was “Hamilton”, in using the below illustrated strip, ignoring the Department ruling? The stamps must have been in preparation prior to the 1883 declaration.

The various 1/16th and 1/8th pound “Series of 1880-81” strips do not fit smoothly into the pre-1883 excise duty schema, and the *control-numbered* printing of the “blank panel” ***black*** strips on *unwatermarked* horizontal mesh wove indicates that on *unwatermarked* paper they date from post 1883-84.

John McKay records that 50,000 *lithographed* copies of 1/8th “Red Tobacco” stamps were ‘Delivered’ under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). This is his only mention of the strip, as none were recorded as ‘Delivered’ to the Department as obsolete in the spring of 1888. As of July 1st 1883, all red warehousing strips were declared *obsolete*.

3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) - 50,000 strips

The final ‘upper-limit’ control number on the 1/8th pound red TOBACCO strips - as collected to date

Division Open - blank panel **049984**

The catalogue lists the 1/8th pound, red, Division Open, TOBACCO warehousing strip as follows:

RP-164 - 1/8th pound, red, perforated 12, Division Open, on *block wmkd* horizontal mesh wove - 4 mm. blue controls

RP-164n - 1/8th pound, red, perforated 12, Division Open, blank central panel, *without* control numbering, Lithographed on *block watermarked* vertical mesh wove paper

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Many of the strips and panes were mis-perforated - as seen in this copy of **RP-164**

RP-164 - 1/8th pound, red, perforated 12, Division Open - Blank Panel, control number **049507**, Lithographed on *block watermarked* vertical mesh wove paper, With a second row of horizontal perforations across the top

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--- RP-164 - *perforated 12* - with 4 mm. blue controls - *with the central panel blank* - scanned at 67% scale ---

RP-164 - 1/8th pound, red, perforated 12, Division Open - blank central panel, control number **023239**,
Lithographed on *block watermarked* vertical mesh wove paper,
Licensee No. *1*, stamped **Hamilton** and **6960** for the warehouse number

023239★	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh, Stamped **Hamilton / 6960** by Licensee *1*
043879	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
043936	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
043950	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
043953	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
043990	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049507★	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049524-37	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049541	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049551	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049572-75	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049580	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049596	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049663	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049721-32	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049733-34	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049736-37	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049739	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049740	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049741	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049742-46	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049747-54	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049776	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049782-86	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049789-96	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049803	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049805	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049807	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049808	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049814	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049815	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049851-52	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049865	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049888	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049900-03	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049904-17★	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh,
049920	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049937	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049943	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049944	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049962	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh
049977-84	RP-164	1/8th pound, perforated 12, block watermarked vertical mesh

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RP_STAMPS \ 1880-81 \ TOBACCO \ Red \ Open \ 1-8 pound - blank],
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